

## How to Use the African American Heritage Sourcebook

### An Invitation

African American Heritage Month is a unique celebration of American history. This celebration is a testament of the contributions, struggles, and triumphs of a people that helped shape the United States into a great nation. Celebrating African American Heritage Month unites Americans by raising awareness, deepening appreciation, and demonstrating togetherness. This celebration is an opportunity for all Americans to connect with each other, representing our national identity—*E Pluribus Unum*.

### About African American History Month

In 1926, Carter G. Woodson, a famed historian, introduced the concept of celebrating African American History, formally Black History, to make note of the significant contributions of African Americans in the United States. He chose the second week of February for this celebration because President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born in this month. Woodson felt that the two men had dramatically improved the lives of African Americans. In 1976, the weeklong celebration was advanced to the entire month of February through efforts from the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH), an association founded by Woodson's supporters. The national theme proposed by ASALH for African American History Month 2002 is "The Color Line Revisited: Is Racism Dead?"

### Using the African American Heritage Sourcebook

#### Section 1: How to Use the African American Heritage Sourcebook

The African American Heritage Sourcebook is a reference tool for celebrating African American History Month that can be used in a few important ways:

1. Tool for raising awareness and appreciation.
2. Source for celebration-event ideas.
3. Guide to in-depth resources.

The ultimate aim of this sourcebook is to increase value for diversity and improve work relations through dialogue and enlightened perspectives generated from its contents and from a spirit of unity.

The sourcebook has 11 sections. The first section (which we are now in) outlines the chapters.

#### Section 2: Profile and Timeline of Thurgood Marshall

This section provides a brief biography of the life of Thurgood Marshall followed by a timeline of his accomplishments.

**Section 3: Civil Rights**

This section lists civil rights laws and cases. A legal quiz is included.

**Section 4: Historical Points**

Part (a) provides a timeline for African American History beginning from a pre-slavery period.

Part (b) provides a calendar of first-time accomplishments, contributions, or events by African Americans.

Part (c) provides a history quiz and answers to the quiz.

**Section 5: Status of African Americans**

Part (a) provides a briefing from the U.S. Census Reports for 1999 and 2000 regarding population size, education, immigration, income and poverty, families, jobs, and home ownership.

Part (b) provides a discussion of contemporary issues facing African Americans.

**Section 6: Famous African Americans**

This section has an alphabetical listing of some African Americans who have made significant contributions.

**Section 7: African American Cultural Items**

A few cultural items are provided here.

Part (a) Black National Anthem

Part (b) Poem: Phenomenal Woman by Maya Angelo

Part (c) Speech: I Have a Dream by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Part (d) Document: Emancipation Proclamation

Part (e) Holidays: Juneteenth, MLK Day, Kwanzaa, and more.

**Section 8: Ideas for Celebration Activities**

This section offers activities and ideas for events.

Part (a) Bingo

Part (b) More quizzes (e.g., sports, music, and literature)

Part (c) List of Other Ideas

**Sections 9: Directory of African American Organizations**

This section contains a listing of African American colleges and universities, resource, organizations and cultural institutions.

## **Section 10: Resource Guide**

A listing of videos, web site links, and suggested readings are contained here.

Part (a) Video Listing

Part (b) Listing of Web Sites to African American Culture

Part (c) Listing of Web Sites to African American Art

Part (d) Suggested Reading List

## **Section 11: Directory of African American Judges**

A Directory of African American judges at the federal level and state supreme courts is provided here.